

REMARKS

The Office Action requires Applicants to elect a single disclosed species among the embodiments shown in Figures 6, Figures 7A-7B, and Figure 8, and asserts that the patent application does not contain any generic claims.

However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species requirement, because the Office Action fails to satisfy the requirements of MPEP §816. As indicated in MPEP §816, "A mere statement of conclusion is inadequate. The reasons upon which the conclusion is based should be given." The Office Action does not provide any basis for making the election of species requirement. Instead, the Office Action only states that the Applicants are required to elect one of three species.

In addition, at least paragraphs [0018] through [0021] of the specification indicate that Figures 6, 7A, and 7B should be considered to be one species.

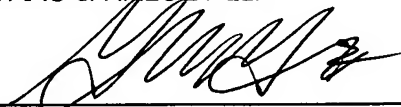
Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that at least claim 12 is generic to all species.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement and examination of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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